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SIXTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS.

The Congress was opened at the Imperial Institute, London, on the 26th of July, with addresses by the Duke of York and by Mr. Clements R. Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Congress. These addresses were acknowledged, on behalf of the foreign delegates and members, by ex-Chief Justice Daly, President of the American Geographical Society, and then followed a reception, held in the gardens of the Institute.

M. E. Levasseur opened the discussions with a paper on Geography in Schools and Universities. Prof. Lehmann, Mr. Yule Oldham, Mr. Herbertson, Mr. Mackinder and others spoke on the subject, and a committee was appointed to draft a resolution in favour of improved methods of geographical teaching.

The Scientific Exploration of the Antarctic Regions was the subject treated by Dr. George Neumayer, who recommended international co-operation in the work and the simultaneous advance of three expeditions along the meridians of New Zealand, Cape Horn and Kerguelen Island.

Admiral Markham spoke on Arctic Exploration, and expressed the opinion that the route by Franz Josef Land offered better prospects than any other.

Gen. Greely, in a paper on the Scope and Value of Arctic Exploration, distinguished its three phases: the commercial, which ended with the last century; the geographical, which culminated with the expeditions in search of Franklin, and the scientific, which now prevails. It could be proved, he said, that Arctic industries had contributed £250,000,000 to the wealth of the world.

Mr. S. A. Andree described his plan for reaching the North Pole by Balloon. The start will be made in June, 1896.

Gen. Walker explained the operations of the Trigonometrical Survey of India, and M. Charles Lallemand read a paper on the general levelling of France.

Gen. Sir Charles Wilson presented the report of the committee appointed by the Berne Congress, in 1891, on Prof. Penck's plan for a map of the world on the scale of 1:1,000,000. The report recommended a projection according to which the limits of the sheets would be formed by parallels and meridians. A truncated-conical projection was the only one which could be taken into consideration. The sheets would cover 4 deg. in height and 6 deg. in breadth, and for the regions within the Polar circles 12 deg. in

breadth. The committee unanimously recommended for the map the adoption of the meridian of Greenwich and the employment of the metre for the altitudes. The recommendations were unanimously approved.

Prof. Brückner, on behalf of the Geographical Society of Berne, offered a resolution that the official staff of each Congress should act until the meeting of the following Congress. The resolution was adopted.

A paper devoted to a review of the work in oceanography during the past twenty years, and especially to the results of the *Challenger* expedition, was read by Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, who also presented, in the name of the Prince of Monaco, an account of the scientific cruises of the yacht *Princesse Alice*.

Prof. Wm. Libbey, Jr., presented the results of his observations on the Relations of the Gulf Stream and the Labrador Current.

Sir John Kirk read a paper on the Extent to which Tropical Africa is suited for Development by the White Races or under their Superintendence. So far as climate was concerned, he considered that the higher lands, above the level of 5,000 feet, were suitable for colonization, and that the fevers were so mild that they did not offer an obstacle. As a rule, the healthy plateaux of Africa were fertile, and some were rich in minerals. His survey excluded, as unsuitable, all the western coast, including the Congo State. German South-western Africa, perhaps, British South-eastern, and East Africa and the mountainous districts of Abyssinia are regarded as promising fields.

Mr. H. M. Stanley, M.P., agreed with Sir John Kirk, but thought his paper looked too far ahead. There was no intention to colonize Central Africa, but there was a purpose to extend commerce, to improve the black man, and to make colonization possible in the distant future. The steamers on the Congo and railroads would do a great part of this work. He believed that in time Central Africa would be like Mexico and Brazil and Ceylon, and he made light of the fever, affirming that he had been in a certain State in the United States where there were more fevers in twenty-four hours than could be found in any part of Africa. The subject was further discussed by Count Pfeil, Mr. Ravenstein, Mr. Silva White and M. Dècle, and the President then called upon Colonel Slatin Pasha, who gave the following account of his captivity in the Sudan and his escape:

In the middle of Africa lies the former Egyptian Sudan, now under the rule of Caliph Abdullah, the despotic head of the Mahdists. No European can venture to

cross the limits of this land, cut off from civilization, extending in the south along the Nile to Redjaf, and east to west from Kassala to near Wadai. Death or life-long captivity would be his lot. Yet it is only within the short period of ten years that the land has been subjected to this miserable fate. For more than sixty years, since the time of Mohammed Ali, it remained under the rule of Egypt, and was open to civilization. In the chief towns were found Egyptian and European merchants; in Khartum itself the foreign Powers had their representatives. Travellers of all nations could pass through the land unharmed, and found protection and help through those representatives. Telegraphs and a regular postal service facilitated intellectual intercourse with the most distant countries. Mohammedan mosques, Christian churches, and mission schools looked after the religious and moral education of the young. The land was inhabited by the most diverse tribes, many of which lived in hostility with one another, but were compelled by the severity of the Government to keep the peace. Discontent, no doubt, prevailed in the land. Its cause was to be sought in the avarice of the officials, especially of the native Sudanese, who latterly had acquired high positions, and by their oppression and tyranny enriched themselves as quickly as possible, and also in the ignorance of the country on the part of the Europeans, who, often with the best intentions, issued orders directly contrary to the traditions and views of the Sudanese, which could not but excite ill will. Mohammed Ahmed knew and took advantage of the mood of the country. Well knowing that only a religious factor could unite the hostile tribes, he maintained that he was the Mahdi sent by God, the deliverer of the country from a foreign yoke, the regenerator of religion. He roused the tribes to war against the Government, promised his adherents in case of death the everlasting joys of Heaven, in case of victory four-fifths of the booty to the survivors. Thus were fanaticism and avarice, the two chief qualities of the Sudanese, awakened. The spark grew to a bright flame. Victory after victory was gained by the insurgents. Kordofan fell into their hands. The army sent under Hicks for the reconquest of the land was annihilated, and I was compelled, after long and vain struggles, to surrender. The insurgents marched on Khartum. On arriving in the neighbourhood of that town I had chains put round my neck and feet, since I was suspected of being anxious to make my escape and join General Gordon. The town was besieged. The personal valour and energy of General Gordon were spent in vain in endeavouring to avert the coming calamity. Khartum fell on the 20th of January, and with it the bravest of its defenders, General Gordon himself, who was murdered on the highest steps of his palace. His head was severed from his body and was mockingly shown to me as I lay in irons. The fanatics behaved with fury in the conquered town. Men and women were killed, with few exceptions, and the survivors were maltreated and tortured with the most refined cruelty in order to extort from them information as to the place of concealment of property they might have hidden. Only young girls and pretty women were spared—not out of compassion. They did not wish to lose them, nor to torture them, as thus their beauty would have been impaired and their value diminished. They were distributed among the adherents of the Mahdi—among them many Christian women and girls. After the retreat of the English army from Dongola I was permitted, after nearly eight months of captivity, a certain amount of liberty, on condition that I should never leave the Caliph Abdullah ebn Mohammed, and that I should always remain in his immediate neighbourhood as his moulazim (body guard). Two circumstances induced him to watch me closely. As I was the last living military governor, he believed, in his entire ignorance of the political conditions of European countries, that in case of my escape I should be in a

position through my more accurate knowledge of the country to induce the Egyptian or English Government to take hostile measures against the Sudan. On the other hand, it flattered his vanity to have as his servant his former master, one to whom most of the western Arab tribes, and among them his own allies in blood, the Taascha-Bazara, had been subject. Severe and cruel, he trusted no one and governed despotically, solely according to his own good pleasure. Since he is of the tribe of the Taascha-Bazara (that is the name applied to all the nomadic rearers of horned cattle) and belongs to Darfur, he relies, as a stranger in the Nile valley, only on his kinsmen by blood, the western Arab tribes and armed slaves, while he sought to diminish the strength of the native tribes of the Nile valley, the Gjaaliin and Danagla. By disarmament, confiscation of property, executions, and the despatch of those capable of bearing arms against his enemies, so that they might die in battle or through privations, he has so weakened these tribes that they are now compelled to endure his rule. The greater part of them regret that they have been stirred up by fanaticism or on other grounds to rise against the former government. They now understand that the government has only been changed, that religion served only as a flag, as a means for the attainment of the end desired. They now long for the end of the tragedy which they have themselves brought upon the scene. Only after eleven years' captivity did I succeed in gaining my freedom. Although all intercourse with any one was forbidden to me, I was nevertheless in secret relation with tribes of the country formerly known to me. For years and on several occasions I had determined on flight, but those participating in my attempts were always deterred by the dangers of the undertaking. At the close of last year I sent a man to Cairo, and through the intervention of the Austrian Consul-General, Baron Heidler, and Major Wingate, Director of the Intelligence Department for Egypt, he received the necessary means for my flight out of the money deposited by my relatives. By means of a large sum secured to him by contract in the event of the success of the undertaking, he gained over people to venture their lives in delivering me. On the night of February 20, after the Caliph had gone to rest, I left the town unobserved and reached the camels held in readiness in the steppe. My guides, knowing that they had only a few hours' start, forced their pace. After an unbroken ride of twenty-one hours we had accomplished one hundred and thirty miles, but the exhausted animals refused to go farther. For six days I remained hidden in the inhospitable Gilf Mountains, until my guides, who were Arabs of this district, succeeded in obtaining other camels. At first it had been our intention to make good our escape by travelling as quickly as possible, but now the only chance of success was strategical manoeuvring, as all routes were closely watched by the dervishes, who had overtaken us. However, we succeeded in crossing the Nile near Berber and reaching the Etbai Mountains by a roundabout way. Here my last guide, an old Arab, fell ill, and I was compelled to leave him behind, together with the only camel which was still in my possession. Now commenced the worst part of the whole journey, as I had to proceed on foot. But the hope of freedom enabled me to overcome all difficulties. On March 16 I left the mountains and reached Assuan, the first settlement of civilized men. My feelings at that moment were indescribable. I was saved from my enemies, from the hands of a fanatical despot, and had left behind me a country governed by absolute and arbitrary tyranny, and separated completely from any civilization. Behind me was the Sudan, where so many Christians are still kept in bonds of slavery and where the greater part of the population prays to God for liberation. I reached Cairo by steamer on March 19. Everywhere I received tokens of the most sincere sympathy with my fate. Standing now here, in the middle of

civilized society, again a man among men, my thoughts turn often back to the fanatical barbarians with whom I had to live so long, to my perils and sufferings amongst them, to the unfortunate companions of my captivity, and to the enslaved nations of those remote territories. My thanks are due to God, whose protecting hand has led me safely through all the perils behind me.

Mr. C. E. Borchgrevink, a young Norwegian, read a paper on the Voyage of the *Antarctic* to Victoria Land. In order to join the *Antarctic*, which was a whaling vessel, he had been obliged to ship as a common sailor, and had been able, therefore, to take with him only a few instruments. The vessel left Melbourne September 20, 1894, and the story of her voyage is as follows:

On October 18, while steering for Royal Company Islands, they had snow on board for the first time. At night it was moonlight, and at 12 o'clock the aurora australis was visible for the first time, with white shining clouds rolling from west towards east. It formed into a shining ellipse, with an altitude above the southern horizon of 35 degrees. The *Antarctic* was at that time in the vicinity of Macquarie Island, and thus in latitude about 34 degrees south. The aurora seemed constantly to obtain its light force from the west, and the intensity of its light cloud culminated every five minutes, after which it suddenly died out, to regain its former magnificence and beauty during the succeeding five minutes. The phenomenon lasted till 2 o'clock, when it was gradually lost in an increasing mist. They set out for Campbell Island on the 22d, and dropped anchor in North Harbour on the eve of October 25, shifting the following day to Perseverance Harbour, where they filled their water tanks and made their final preparations before proceeding south. On October 31 they weighed anchor, and during the next few days, proceeding further into the fifties, the air and the water kept an equal temperature at 44° F. On the 6th of the following month, in latitude 58° 14' and longitude 162° 35', they sighted an immense barrier of ice, or chain of icebergs, extending no less than from forty to sixty miles from east to north-west. The top was quite level and absolutely white. The highest point was 600 feet high. The perpendicular sides were dark ashy gray, with large worn green caves, in which the furious waves were raging and tearing, bursting forth in brilliant foam hundreds of feet up in the air. Numerous icebergs were floating about in all directions, and were undoubtedly children of this enormous monster. It was here they discovered that their propeller was out of order, and the *Antarctic* was again headed northward, anchoring in Port Chalmers on the 18th, where the damage was soon repaired. They again stood southwards on November 28. By the time they reached 55° the albatross had left them and likewise the Cape pigeon, but the white-bellied storm petrel still followed in their track. On December 7 they sighted the edge of the pack ice and shot their first seal, which was of the white kind. On December 8, in latitude 68° 45', longitude 171° 30', large streams of ice were drifting around them. A strong ice-blink appeared towards the south, and the presence of the elegant white petrel gave unmistakable evidence that now they had before them those vast ice-fields into which the gallant Briton, Sir James Ross, on January 5, 1841, successfully entered with his famous ships *Erebus* and *Terror*. In the evening the *Antarctic* slowly worked its way through the edge of the pack ice, which consisted of large and heavy hummocky ice. Of marine animals they saw multitudes. The large-finned whale, known in Norway as the blue whale, were spouting about in all directions. The white petrel were numerous here. The white-bellied petrel de

parted at the edge of the pack, leaving the icy regions to its darker, hardier brethren. They shot several seal, but seldom saw more than one or two together and never more than seven, most having scars and scratches in their skin. When the ship entered the pack the temperature of the air was 25° , that of the water 28° , which latter held all through the pack. On the 14th they sighted Balleney Island, and found it, as according to Ross, in latitude $66^{\circ} 44'$, longitude 164° . The icefloes grew gradually larger as they approached land, and it was evident that the icepack then around them was for a great part discharged from the glaciers of the Balleney. They got a good view of the lofty peak of the Balleney, which rose to a height of 12,000 feet above the sea level. On December 16 they moored the *Antarctic* to a large floe of pancake-like ice, which told its tale of the previous long calm. On December 24 they were in latitude $66^{\circ} 3'$, longitude $167^{\circ} 37'$ east. During the day they had stormy weather, but the evening was beautiful and the sun just touched the horizon on its lowest descent. They were probably the only people who ever saw the midnight sun on Christmas Eve. On Wednesday, the 26th, they crossed the Antarctic Circle. On New Year's Eve they were in latitude $66^{\circ} 47'$, longitude $147^{\circ} 8'$ at 12 o'clock. While the sun was shining bright, they rang the old year out and the new year in, and saluted with their guns in honour of the occasion. In latitude $67^{\circ} 5'$, longitude $175^{\circ} 45'$ east, was secured a specimen of *Apterydytes Forsteri*, a large penguin. In all only four of these birds were secured, and it was never seen in company with another of its kind. On the 14th, in latitude $69^{\circ} 55'$ and longitude $157^{\circ} 30'$ east, they came again into open water, having spent thirty-eight days in working their passage through the pack ice. They steered straight for Cape Adare, on Victoria Land, which they sighted on January 16. On the 18th, in latitude $71^{\circ} 45'$, longitude $176^{\circ} 3'$, the temperature of the air was 32° and the temperature of the water 30° , and the sky was completely clear. The Cape, which was in $71^{\circ} 23'$ and $169^{\circ} 56'$, rose to a height of 3,779 feet, and consisted of a large, square, basaltic rock with perpendicular sides. From there they saw the coast of Victoria Land to the west and south as far as the eye could reach. It rose from dark, bare rocks into peaks of perpetual ice and snow, 12,000 feet above the level of the sea, Mount Sabine, above the rest, standing out shining in the rays of the midnight sun. Conic tops covered the plateau and ran over in mighty glaciers. They counted as many as twenty of them in the close vicinity of the Bay of Adare. On the 18th they sighted Possession Island, with its peculiar contours standing out sharply against the bright sky. They effected a successful landing on the North Island, pulling their boat upon the shore, and they were at once furiously attacked by the penguins, which covered the very ground of the island and seemed much annoyed by seeing the foreigners intruding on their domain. Their hoarse screams filled the air, and it was with a considerable strain of his voice that, on landing, he addressed his countrymen in a few words, informing them that they were the second party who had set foot on that island, and that Sir James Ross had preceded them, having fifty-four years ago landed there and planted the English flag. They gave three cheers for that great British navigator, and also for Commander Captain Svend Foyn, who so bravely sent out that present Antarctic expedition. The ground on the island was covered with a deep layer of guano, which, in time, might prove very valuable to Australasia. The island consisted of volcanic, vesicular lava, rising in the south-west into two pointed peaks of 300 feet in height. He scaled the highest of these and called it Peak Archer, after Mr. A. Archer, M.L.A., of Rockhampton, Queensland. To the west the island rose gently upward, forming a bold and conspicuous cape, which, not being named by Sir James Ross, it was left to him (Mr.

Borchgrevink) to christen. He gave it the name of Sir Ferd. von Mueller, whose scientific fame he already as a boy had learnt to value on the Continent. He quite unexpectedly found vegetation on the rocks, about 30 feet above the sea level. Vegetation never was discovered in such southern latitudes before. Possession Island was situated in latitude $71^{\circ} 56'$, longitude $171^{\circ} 10'$. It was remarkably free from snow. He judged it to be from 300 to 350 acres in size, and they gave it the name of Sir James Ross's Island. On February 20 they steamed southwards, and sighted Colman Island on the 21st, at midnight. Finding the eastern cape of this large island unnamed, they called it Cape Oscar, in honour of his Majesty the King of Norway, whose birthday it happened to be on that day. He noticed great irregularities in their compass at Colman Island. Undoubtedly that island contained secrets of scientific value, which would be well worth the attention of future Antarctic researches. On the 22d they were in 74° south. No whales appearing, it was decided to head northwards again, although they all regretted that circumstances did not permit them to proceed further south. On the 23d they were again at Cape Adare. They landed that night, being the first human creatures who ever put foot on the mainland. The penguins were, if possible, even more numerous here than on the Possession Island, and they were discovered on the very cape as far up as 1,000 feet. In latitude 66° , longitude $172^{\circ} 31'$, they ran into open water again, having this time only spent six days in the ice pack. On the 17th of February the Aurora appeared stronger than he ever saw the Aurora Borealis. It rose from south-west, stretching in a broad stream up towards the zenith, and again towards the eastern horizon. The *minimum* temperature within the Antarctic Circle which they experienced was 25° F., the *maximum* being 46° F. The average temperature for January and February kept very much the same. The temperature of the water kept at 28° F. all through the ice pack, always rising one degree where a larger sheet of water broke the ice fields. In the large bay at South Victoria Land the temperature kept constantly about freezing point. It was evident that a warm, north-running current existed in the bay, which undoubtedly had a constant direction northwards, and broke the ice fields at the very place where first Sir James Ross and then they successfully penetrated to the open bay of Victoria Land. Within the Antarctic Circle the barometer at 29° always indicated calm, beautiful, clear weather, and even down to 28° it kept fine. This low barometric indication was remarkable where the dryness of the air should help in causing a high pressure. The movement of the ice distinctly pointed to a north-easterly direction, and the scarcity of ice in the Bay of Victoria Land was undoubtedly not alone owing to warm currents, but also to the protection which the bay had against drift ice by the shore from Cape Adare down to the volcanoes, the Erebus and Terror. A particular specimen of rock which he picked up, composed of quartz, felspar and garnet fragments, held out some hope that minerals of economic value might occur in those regions. He made a thorough investigation of this landing-place, because he believed that here was the very place where a future scientific expedition might stop safely, even during the winter months. Several accessible spurs led up from the place where they were to the top of the cape, from there a gentle slope led on to the great plateau of the South Victorian Continent. The presence of the penguin colony, their undisturbed old nests, the vegetation on the rocks, and the flat table of the cape above, all indicated that here was a place where the unbound powers of the Antarctic Circle did not display the whole severity of their forces. Neither ice nor volcanoes seemed to have raged on the peninsula at Cape Adare, and he strongly recommended that a future scientific expedition should choose this spot as a centre for operations. At this conspicuous

cape there would, in his opinion, be ample opportunities for making meteorological observations, and scarcely any branch of science demanded research more than meteorology within the Antarctic Circle. He himself was willing to be the leader of a land party to be landed either on the pack or on the mainland near Colman Island, with skier, Canadian snow-shoes, sledges and dogs. From there it was his scheme to work toward the South Magnetic Pole, calculated by Ross to be in $75^{\circ} 05'$ and 150° east, and Colman Island lying in $73^{\circ} 36'$ south and $170^{\circ} 02'$ east, he would have approximately to travel about 160 miles to reach the South Magnetic Pole. If it were the means of determining the periodical changes in the Pole of terrestrial magnetism alone, a future expedition would, from a scientific point of view, be an entire success. As to the zoological result of future research he expected great discoveries. It would indeed be remarkable if in the unexplored Victoria Continent, which probably extended over an area of 8,000,000 square miles, or about twice the size of Europe, there should not be found animal life hitherto unknown in the Southern Hemisphere. It was true that the scientific results of this expedition had been few, but where already so many important facts demanded further research the arguments plainly proved that the time was ripe and that further delay of a scientific expedition to South Victoria Continent could scarcely be justified.

After some discussion, Prof. von den Steinen offered, and the Congress unanimously adopted, a resolution that

The Sixth Geographical Congress, assembled at London, 1895, with reference to the exploration of the Antarctic regions, expresses the opinion that this is the greatest piece of geographical exploration still to be undertaken, and, in view of the additions to knowledge in almost every branch of science which would result from such scientific exploration, the Congress recommends that the several scientific societies throughout the world urge, in whatever way seems to them most effective, that this work be undertaken before the close of this century.

A paper by Baron Nordenskiöld on Ancient Charts and Sailing Directions was read by the President.

The Origin of the Mediæval Italian Nautical Charts was the subject of a learned paper by Prof. Hermann Wagner, and Mr. H. Yule Oldham called attention to the Importance of Mediæval Manuscript Maps in the Study of the History of Geographical Discovery.

Prof. Rein described his Observations on the Spanish Sierra Nevada, a little known and most interesting range of mountains.

Gen. Annenkoff then addressed the Congress on the Importance of Geography in view of the present Economical and Agricultural Crisis.

It was decided to accept the invitation of the Geographical Societies of Germany to hold the next Congress at Berlin.

Other resolutions adopted were:

That it is desirable to bring to the notice of the geographical societies interested in Africa the advantages to be gained—(1) By the execution of accurate topographical surveys, based on a sufficient triangulation, of the districts in Africa suitable for colonization by Europeans; (2) by encouraging travellers to sketch areas

rather than mere routes; (3) by the formation and publication of a list of all the places in unsurveyed Africa which have been accurately determined by astronomical observations, with explanations of the methods employed; (4) by the accurate determination of the position of many of the most important places in unsurveyed Africa, for which operation the lines of telegraph already erected, or in course of erection, afford so great facilities.

One submitted by Dr. Gregoriev, on behalf of General Tillo, St. Petersburg, expressing the importance of drawing up tabular and cartographic catalogues of all the original topographical sources for all the countries and for every geographical region, and expressing a wish that all countries which have not published cartographic catalogues should be invited to do so, and that the geographical societies of the different countries should be invited to interest themselves in the matter.

A resolution concerning the results of recent research in the Baltic, the North Sea and the North Atlantic, especially with regard to fishing interests, and recording the opinion of the Congress that the survey of those areas should be continued and extended.

A resolution acknowledging the necessity of an international system of stations for the observations of earthquakes.

It was agreed that the various geographical societies should be requested to study the question of the orthography of geographical names, and prepare a report on the subject for the next Congress.

A resolution, proposed by Mr. Frank Campbell, expressing approval of the principle of State-printed registration of literature as the true foundation of national and international bibliography, and approving of the appointment of an international committee to further that object.

A resolution, submitted by M. Jacques Léotard (Marseilles), expressing the wish that all geographical maps should bear henceforth the date of their publication.

On the motion of M. De Rey Pailhade, it was agreed to request the various geographical societies to study the subject of the application of the decimal system to time and to angles, and of a symbolical system of hour-zones, and report to the next Congress.